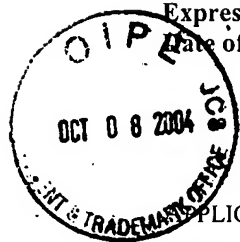


Express Mail Label No.: EV231272517US

Date of Deposit: October 8, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 24299-506 CON



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Gordon W. Duff, *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/712,882 EXAMINER: Not Yet Assigned
FILING DATE: November 12, 2003 ART UNIT: Not Yet Assigned
FOR: DETECTING GENETIC PREDISPOSITION TO SIGHT THREATENING DIABETIC
RETINOPATHY

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.